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1. (Amended) An additive for conglomerate building materials selected from gypsum
and special mortar, that comprises a solid mineral component selected from among clay and at
least a modified natural gum, wherein the solid mineral component is a rheological grade
sepiolite and wherein the additive is free of cellulose derivatives. *new matter* *Sepiolite*

B1
2. (Amended) An additive according to claim 1 comprising

20-75% by weight of the solid mineral component;

25-80% by weight of modified natural gum.

3. (Amended) An additive according to claim 1 comprising

35-60% by weight of the solid mineral component;

40-65% by weight of modified natural gum.

Cancel Claim 4 without prejudice.

5. (Amended) An additive according to claim 1, wherein the modified natural gum is at

least one combination of at least two monosaccharides, glucose, mannose, galactose, and

glucuronic acid, modified by etherification.

D2
6. (Amended) An additive according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the

combination of monosaccharides is etherified with an alkylene oxide selected from [among]

ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and butylene oxide.